

For Immediate Release

Media contact: Maria Abad, 202-683-3173

EQUATORIAL GUINEA PRESIDENT MEETS WITH UN SECRETARY-GENERAL TO RESOLVE BOUNDARY DISPUTE WITH GABON

MALABO (March 9, 2011) – On a recent mediation at the United Nations, President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo met with President Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon at the UN building in the heart of New York City. The two Presidents met to discuss a long-standing territorial dispute between the two neighboring countries.

(For video on President Obiang's visit to the United Nations, visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/EquatorialGuineaNews>)

President Obiang came to New York at the invitation of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. The UN is mediating this dispute in an effort to help the two countries reach an agreement.

In a joint communiqué, the two nations renewed their commitment to continued friendly relations and pledged to continue working toward a mutually beneficial resolution to the dispute surrounding three islands in Corisco Bay, in an area of petroleum and natural gas deposits. The two countries agreed many years ago to jointly exploit the area's resources until a permanent agreement could be reached.

Equatorial Guinea and Gabon agreed to meet again March 29 and 30 for further talks under UN auspices in Geneva. The two neighbors enjoy friendly relations, which they believe will help them resolve this territorial issue.

About Equatorial Guinea

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea (*República de Guinea Ecuatorial*) is the only Spanish-speaking country in Africa, and one of the smallest nations on the continent. In the late-1990s, American companies helped discover the country's oil and natural gas resources, which only within the last five years began contributing to the global energy supply. Equatorial Guinea is now working to serve as a pillar of stability and security in its region of West Central Africa. The country will host the 2011 Summit of the African Union. For more information, visit <http://www.guineaequatorialpress.com>.

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AU PRESIDENT OBIANG URGES EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY IN AFRICAN UNION

MALABO (March 15, 2011) – African Union (AU) Chairman Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, has called on AU officials to be creative and innovative and to improve the efficiency of the organization.

On his first visit as chairman to AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Mr. Obiang told an assembly of AU officials, “our handicap is the lack of resources, but we are doing everything to find the resources necessary to ensure the efficient operation of our continental organization.”

Calling it “an honor and a great responsibility” to work at the African Union, he encouraged commissioners and staff to continue working hard, despite limited resources, to bring greater respectability to the organization, and he called on them to design and implement only the highest quality programs.

President Obiang met with the Chairperson of the Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, the Deputy Chairperson, AU commissioners, directors and staff of the commission, and permanent representatives of AU member states and partners.

Upon his arrival, he participated in the Peace and Security Council Summit, which reviewed the situation in Libya and the report of the High-Level Panel set up at the last AU Summit in January 2011 to seek a peaceful solution to the post-election crisis in Côte d’Ivoire.

In his welcome address, Dr. Ping congratulated the new chairman on his election last January to the helm of the African Union, which he described as testimony to President Obiang’s commitment to raise Africa’s profile in the international arena.

In Mr. Obiang’s inaugural address as AU chairman last January, he called on African nations to take more responsibility and show more leadership in resolving the region’s problems.

Dr. Ping thanked President Obiang for Equatorial Guinea’s leadership role in stimulating development across the continent through regional and sub-regional integration. He assured him of the Commission’s full cooperation in his efforts to strengthen the continent through democratization, development, and unity.

Dr. Ping stressed the major challenge posed by the condition of Africa’s youth, whose rights and legitimate aspirations have led the African Union to organize its next Summit

in Equatorial Guinea in June 2011 on the theme "The development and empowerment of youth."

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